

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

VO-03 SCA-01 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 /066 W

-----020734Z 048769 /12

R 311118Z DEC 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3976

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IZ

SUBJECT: GOI DELEGATION TO VISIT UNITED STATES TO MEET WITH KURDS

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AL-SHAIKHLI CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE ON DEC. 30 AND SAID THAT GROUP OF GOI OFFICIALS LED BY MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AKRAWI PLANNED TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN JANUARY AND MEET WITH SOME KURDS WHO ARE NOW IN THE UNITED STATES. THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE BABAKER MUHAMMED AL BASHDARI, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, AND FOUR MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, NURI FAISAL, MUHAMMED ZIMAM, SHIHAB AHMED, AND WIDAT AJAM. HE SAID THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD SOON APPLY TO USINT FOR VISAS.

2. SHAIKHLI THEN SAID THAT HE HAD CALLED ME IN FOR TWO REASONS, FIRST TO INFORM ME OFFICIALLY OF THE TRAVEL PLANS OF THE DELEGATION AND SECOND, TO ASK FOR SECURITY PROTECTION FOR THE DELEGATION WHILE THEY WERE IN THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE DELEGATION HOPED TO INFORM THE KURDS IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGION. ACCORDING TO SHAIKHLE, ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE MADE THROUGH THE IRAQI INTERESTS SECTION WASHINGTON. THE USG IS NOT BEING ASKED TO PLAY ANY FACILITATIVE ROLE OTHER THAN TO PROVIDE SECURITY.

3. I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING SECURITY BUT THAT I WOULD GIVE HIM AN OFFICIAL REPLY AS SOON AS I HAD HEARD FROM WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, AZIZ AKRAWI WAS A MINISTER OF STATE BUT IS NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION APPEAR TO BE PRO-GOVERNMENT KURDS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH THE KURDISH EXILES IN EUROPE AND IN THE UNITED STATES. I RECOMMEND THAT WE ISSUE THE VISAS AND RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THEIR REQUEST FOR SECURITY PROTECTION.  
WILEY

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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